



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

March 12, 2010

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name of the Chief Executive Officer.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXPRESS THE COUNTY'S SUPPORT FOR AB 1717 (DE LÉON) AND DIRECT THE SACRAMENTO ADVOCATES TO ACTIVELY PROMOTE ITS PASSAGE (ITEM NO. 8, AGENDA OF MARCH 16, 2010)

Item No. 8 on the March 16, 2010 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Molina instructing the Chief Executive Officer to express the County's support for AB 1717 (De León), and direct the Sacramento advocates to actively promote its passage into law.

Current law requires election officials to provide registered voters with a sample ballot, voter pamphlet and other ballot materials by mail prior to a primary or general election. AB 1717, would amend the Elections Code to: 1) authorize county and city election officials to offer registered voters the choice to opt out of receiving ballot materials by mail and choose to receive the materials via electronic mail or by accessing a website; 2) specify that voter's electronic mail addresses, or any other information provided by the voter, shall remain confidential; and 3) establish a procedure to allow voters to opt back into receiving materials by mail.

Recently enacted AB 306 (Chapter 98, Statutes of 2009) authorizes the Secretary of State to establish a process for registered voters to opt out of receiving their State ballot pamphlet by mail and receive this information electronically. This authority applies only at the State level. According to the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC), AB 1717 would allow counties and cities to implement a similar program, which would lead to significant savings and programmatic efficiencies for counties and cities.

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Each Supervisor
March 12, 2010
Page 2

The RR/CC indicates that the County currently spends between \$5 million to \$8 million in printing and mailing costs associated with sample ballots. If enacted, it is anticipated that implementing the provisions of AB 1717 could result in significant savings by reducing the number of paper sample ballots printed and mailed every election. In addition, this measure could potentially increase voter participation by making important voter information more accessible via the internet and electronic mail. AB 1717 also would contribute to meet the County's environmental goals of reducing the use of paper products.

Based on the potential fiscal and programmatic benefits to the County, the RR/CC recommends support for AB 1717. **However, because there is no existing policy to support proposals that authorize election officials to establish programs to allow voters to opt out of receiving voting materials by mail and receive materials electronically, support for AB 1717 is a matter for Board policy determination.**

AB 1717 is currently in the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee, awaiting a hearing. There is no support or opposition on file for this measure.

WTF:RA
MR:RM:er

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk